

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AGR-05 STR-04 USIE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /058 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9638

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1281

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, HO

SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS: STANDARD FRUIT AND SUTRAFSCO

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 1099, (B) STATE 069297

1. LABOFF HAS JUST LEARNED FROM CTH SEC GEN VICTOR ARTILES THAT AD HOC CONGRESS OF SUTRAFSCO (STANDARD FRUIT COMPANY WORKERS' UNION) CALLED FOR APRIL 1 HAS ISSUED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE GOH TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO EMPLOY ALL WORKERS DISMISSED BY STANDARD IN THE ISLETAS AREA (SEE REF A). CONGRESS WAS MARKED BY EARLY ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE PROVOKED BY "LEFTIST" ELEMENTS WANTING THE CONGRESS TO RESOLVE TO ASK THE GOH TO COMPLETELY NATIONALIZE THE COMPANY'S HOLDINGS. UNION FEELING IS RUNNING STRONG AGAINST THE COMPANY ON THE NORTH COAST.

2. COMPANY INTENDS TO DISMISS AN ADDITIONAL 800 WORKERS ON APRIL 5 (REF A) WHICH IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO INCREASE ANTI-COMPANY SENTIMENT. GIVEN ARRIVAL OF AFL-CIO DELEGATION IN SAN PEDRO SULA APRIL 8 (REF B) BY WHICH TIME FESITRANH AND SUTRAFSCO WILL BE AWARE OF NEW DISMISSALS, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DELEGATION BE BRIEFED (PERHAPS THROUGH AFL-CIO INTER-AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE ANDY MCLELLAN) ABOUT SITUATION PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. SENSITIVITY OF SITUATION REQUIRES UTMOST CAUTION IN ANY PUBLIC COMMENTS.

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SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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Type: TE
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